

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action in the present application.

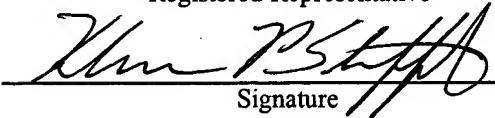
With this Amendment, Applicant has revised the claims in light of prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed simultaneously herewith.

Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 30, 2004:

Klaus P. Stoffel

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

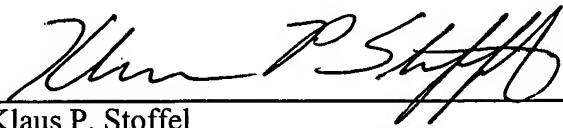


Signature

June 30, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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